ABSTRACT

Preferred techniques for transmitting on-demand data files include transmitting a first data stream in response to a first client request, and a new data stream in response to a subsequent second client request. The second client may snoop increasing amounts data from the first data stream, thereby decreasing the second client's reliance on the second data stream until the client has merged with the first data stream, at which time transmission of the second data stream will be discontinued. Alternatively, a patch data stream may be broadcast to the second client having a bandwidth less than that of the first data stream. The second client, in addition to receiving the second data stream real-time, will record data from a patch data stream until the second client has merged with the first data stream, at which time transmission of the second data stream and patch data stream will be discontinued.

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